**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1   1.      A method for detecting whether a microphone is connected to a real-time audio

2   communication system of a computer comprising:

3          recording an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;

4          filtering a DC component out of the audio sample;

5          determining auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;

6          comparing the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to

7   predetermined values; and

8          determining whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio

9   communication system based on a relationship between the values of the auto-correlation

10  function coefficients and the predetermined values.


1   2.      A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, for detecting whether

2   a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a computer, comprising

3   instructions for causing the computer to:

4          record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;

5          filter a DC component out of the audio sample;

6          determine auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;

7          compare the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to

8   predetermined values; and

9          determine the likelihood of a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio

10  communication system based on the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients.


1   3.      A computer system running programmed processes comprising a process for

2   detecting whether a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a

3   computer, which process causes the computer system to:

4          record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;

5          filter a DC component out of the audio sample;

6          determine auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;

7       compare the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample to

8   predetermined values; and

9       determine the likelihood of a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio

10  communication system based on the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients.